

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A transmit-receive system on board a satellite for a telecommunication system within a region covered by said system, wherein said region includes a plurality of areas including isolated areas, each area covered by a respective antenna on board said satellite, said system receives calls from any area and transmits said calls to the same area or another area, said system comprising:

means for combining signals from said plurality of areas into groups and

routing means for routing calls from any one of said groups to itself, or to another of said groups,

wherein each group is allocated all of the communication resources of said region.

2. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said routing means are hardwired.

3. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said areas are allocated to said groups in such a manner that the traffic is substantially the same from one group to another.

4. (Previously Presented): The system claimed in claim 1 further comprising switching means for modifying the composition of said groups so that at least one area can be transferred from one group to another.

5. (Previously Presented): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for combining said signals of several areas are part of an antenna system.

6. (Original): The system claimed in claim 5 wherein said means for grouping said signals of several areas use a beam-forming network.

7. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said means for grouping said signals from several areas are part of repeater means.

8. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 1 wherein said routing means allocate communication resources so that said signals received by a first group from a second group are distinguished from signals received from a third group by virtue of using~~having~~ different resources.

9. (Previously Presented): The system claimed in claim 8 wherein said resources

allocated to said groups for interconnecting said groups include frequency bands.

10. (Original): The system claimed in claim 9 wherein said resources further include polarizations.

11. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of said areas corresponding to the same group are geographically far apart.

12. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein the number of areas in a group is from 1 to 10.

13. (Original): The system claimed in claim 1 wherein the number of groups is 4.